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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

118A  
8/19/04

Application Serial No. .... 09/539,357  
Filing Date ..... March 31, 2000  
Confirmation No. .... 1285  
Inventor ..... Brill et al.  
Group Art Unit ..... 2178  
Examiner ..... Jonathan D. Stone  
Attorney's Docket No. .... MS1-471US\146831.1  
Title: Improved Noisy Channel Spelling Correction

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED SEPTEMBER 26, 2003

To: Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Technology Center 2100

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**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

This communication is in response to the Office Action dated September 26, 2003 with a three month shortened statutory period for reply.